

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.     A convertible top for a vehicle having a passenger  
2 compartment and a storage area comprising:  
3                   a top stack linkage moveable between an extended position and a  
4 retracted position, the top stack linkage having a right side rail and a left side rail,  
5 the side rails extending longitudinally relative to the vehicle when the top stack  
6 linkage is in the extended position, the side rails each having a forward end and a  
7 rearward end, a one bow being formed in one piece and being received by the  
8 windshield header when the top stack linkage is in the extended position, the  
9 forward ends of the side rails being contiguous with the one bow in the extended  
10 position and the side rails being pivoted about a pivot axis near the rearward end of  
11 the side rails to extend transversely relative to the vehicle in the retracted position;  
12 and  
13                   a flexible cover secured to the top stack linkage encloses the  
14 passenger compartment when the top stack linkage is extended and is stored in the  
15 storage area when the top stack linkage is retracted.

1                   2.     The convertible top of claim 1 further comprising a pair of  
2 linkages connecting the one bow to each of the right and left side rails, each linkage  
3 further comprising a fixed link attached to one of the side rails and a pivoting link  
4 that is pivotally connected to the one bow on one end and the fixed link on the other  
5 end.

1                   3.     The convertible top of claim 1 wherein a two bow comprises  
2 a central section and right and left side portions and wherein the central section is  
3 pivotally connected on opposite lateral ends to one of each of the right and left side  
4 portions, the right and left side portions being pivotally connected to the right and  
5 left side rails, respectively, the right and left side portions being partially rotated  
6 from a position outboard of the side rails in the retracted position to a position  
7 inboard of the side rails and generally aligned with the central portion in the  
8 extended position.

1                   4.       The convertible top of claim 1 further comprising a right main  
2 pivot and a left main pivot connected by a pair of linkages to the rearward ends of  
3 each of the right and left side rails, the main pivots rotating the side rails between  
4 an upstanding orientation when the top stack linkage is extended and a horizontal  
5 orientation when the top stack linkage is retracted.

1                   5.       The convertible top of claim 4 wherein the left main body  
2 pivot and the right main body pivot are spherical pivots.

1                   6.       The convertible top of claim 1 wherein the forward ends of  
2 the side rails separate from the lateral ends of the one bow as the top stack linkage  
3 is moved from the extended position to the retracted position.

1                   7.       The convertible top of claim 1 further comprising a three bow  
2 with a right end and a left end, the three bow right end and the three bow left end  
3 connected to each of the right main body pivot and the left main body pivot  
4 respectively, the three bow pivoting rearwardly as the top is retracted and being  
5 connected by a pair of linkages to the side rails, wherein the side rails pivot  
6 inwardly as the top is retracted.

1                   8.       The convertible top of claim 7 further comprising a four bow  
2 having a right end and a left end, the four bow being placed rearward of the three  
3 bow, and having the four bow right end and the four bow left end connected to each  
4 of the right main body pivot and the left main body pivot, the four bow pivoting  
5 rearwardly as the top is retracted, and being connected by a pair of linkages to the  
6 side rails, wherein the side rails pivot inwardly as the top is retracted.

1                   9.       A convertible top for a vehicle, comprising:  
2 right and left side rails each having a back end that is pivotally  
3 connected by a linkage to one of a right main pivot bracket and a left main pivot  
4 bracket on right and left sides of the vehicle, the right and left side rails each having  
5 distal ends on the opposite ends thereof from the back ends, the distal ends being  
6 moved between a first position wherein the side rails extend longitudinally relative

7 to the vehicle and a second position wherein the side rails extend transversely  
 8 relative to the vehicle; and  
 9 a first bow formed in a single piece that extends the length of the  
 10 windshield header and is connected to the side rails near their distal ends by a  
 11 linkage.

1 10. The convertible top of claim 9 further comprising a second  
 2 bow spaced rearward of the first bow and extending between the right and left side  
 3 rails, the second bow being articulated to allow the distal ends of the side rails to  
 4 converge as the top is shifted from the first position to the second position, wherein  
 5 the distal ends of the side rails diverge as the top is shifted from the second position  
 6 to the first position.

1 11. The convertible top of claim 10 wherein the second bow  
 2 further comprises at least one intermediate section extending between the right and  
 3 left side rails and being connected to the right and left side rails by right and left  
 4 links, respectively.

1 12. The convertible top of claim 9 further comprising a third bow  
 2 having a right end and a left end, the right end of the third bow and the left end of  
 3 the third bow being connected to the right main pivot and the left main pivot,  
 4 respectively.

1 13. The convertible top of claim 12 wherein the third bow right  
 2 end and the third bow left end are further connected by a pair of linkages to the right  
 3 side rail and the left side rail, respectively, wherein the right and left side rails pivot  
 4 inwardly when the top is moved from the first position to the second position.

1 14. The convertible top of claim 13 further comprising a fourth  
 2 bow disposed rearward of the third bow and being connected to the right main pivot  
 3 bracket and the left main pivot bracket, the fourth bow pivoting rearwardly as the top  
 4 is retracted, and being connected by a pair of linkages to the side rails, wherein the  
 5 side rails pivot inwardly as the top is retracted.